

BOYCOTT SENDS EGG PRICES DOWN 1 CENT

Wholesalers Ask Less for Storage Goods After First Day of Campaign.

BLOGAN FOR 700 MOVIES

"Smash Egg Gamblers!" Plea to Housewives Winning Many Converts.

This is what happened yesterday after an eggless breakfast in the homes of New Yorkers who decided to follow Commissioner Joseph Hartigan's advice to consumers to refrain from buying eggs for at least two weeks.

The wholesale price of the cold storage variety of eggs dropped 1 cent a dozen. Experts admitted the demand was retarded by an abnormal effect of boycott and newspaper agitation.

Mayor Cornelius P. Burns of Troy, president of the Conference of Mayors of New York State, sent word to Commissioner Hartigan that he will confer with him at 1 o'clock this afternoon on a programme for the family embargo and plans for the conservation of foodstuffs.

A slogan for the boycott campaign was drafted by the Commissioner of Weights and Measures for propaganda purposes on the screens of 700 motion picture houses in the greater city, as follows:

"Smash the egg gamblers. Join the egg boycott. It's the men higher up, not the retailers, who are the cause of the egg price. Buy only for the sick, the aged and children. Decrease the demand. Watch the price come down. It's up to you."

Housewives League Gets Busy.

The National Housewives League sent telegrams and letters to its branches urging housewives to join in the boycott.

Commissioner Hartigan declared that if the Department of Health will make an investigation of cold storage plants it will find not only that the law relative to the stamping of foodstuffs with the date of their admission is being violated but that some of the foodstuffs are not in fit condition to be eaten.

Alderman William T. Collins of Manhattan fathered a resolution, which was passed by the Board of Aldermen, directing the committee on general welfare of the board to report a practical plan for investigating conditions responsible for the high cost of necessities of life with a view to recommending suitable legislation. Alderman Clarence Y. Palitz of the Bronx introduced a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee of seven to investigate the prices and report to the board. The resolution was referred to the committee on rules.

Wants Market Rentals Cut.

Borough President Marcus M. Mark's citizens' committee on open markets adopted a resolution calling on Comptroller Frederick to reduce rentals in Queensboro Bridge and Harlem Bridge markets from \$1.50 to 50 cents per square foot. It also took a stand looking to legislation with a view to insuring a fair price to producer and consumer through proper market terminals.

The Police Department gave out statistics showing a great variety of egg prices in different parts of the city. The average price for fresh eggs in New York is 63 cents per dozen now, as compared with 55 cents this time a year ago.

In addition to the hurry caused by the egg boycott and other activities on the part of officials and ultimate consumers to do something to bring down the cost of living, there was a good deal of talk about the suggestion of Gov. Whitman in favor of the creation of a commission with George W. Perkins at the head to deal with the food problem.

It was said the Governor intends to seek legislation calling for the reorganization of the State Department of Foods and Markets.

Dillon Awaiting Albany Move. Commissioner Dillon expressed himself about the Governor's possible programme yesterday, but he insisted last night that he doesn't know what the Governor intends to do and until he finds out he doesn't propose to say anything for publication.

The effect of the family egg boycott on the egg market yesterday was shown in the following quotations of storage egg prices for the day in the *Producers Price Current*, the official organ in the trade, as compared with prices for the preceding day:

	Tuesday, Monday	Wednesday, Tuesday
Refrigerator special.....	35 1/2	34 1/2
Refrigerator first.....	34 1/2	33 1/2
Refrigerator second.....	34 1/2	33 1/2
Refrigerator, lower grades.....	33 1/2	32 1/2
Refrigerator, State white.....	33 1/2	32 1/2

"Arrivals include a considerable quantity of storage eggs for export," the *Producers Price Current* said. It continued: "The supply of fresh gathered eggs continues light and the proportion of new laid quality small. The demand is naturally restricted by the high prices ruling and by an abnormal effect of boycott and newspaper agitation, but the requirements of the fresh stock are sufficient to absorb the small supply of such available at firm prices."

Fresh Eggs Show No Change.

There was no change in the price of the large variety of fresh eggs.

"The egg wholesalers say that the egg boycott will play into the hands of foreign buyers," Commissioner Hartigan said during the afternoon. "They declare the men who want eggs for export are waiting for a reduction in the price of eggs and that we who are urging a boycott are encouraging shipments of eggs abroad. My answer to that is: It isn't so, for the reason that there is not a sufficient number of vessels with refrigerating facilities sailing from this port to carry the eggs. I understand the exporting of eggs is carried on principally from Canadian ports. Now is the time for the best business in the country—the business men, not the politicians—to cooperate with the national Government and arouse the people to the necessity of conservation of food supplies. They should get in their minds the prodigality of the people themselves."

"We need national cold storage laws. If we cannot get them we should have uniform cold storage laws in all the States. The solution of this question of the high cost of foodstuffs has no place in politics. The business men must get together."

Over sixty men and women interested in economics attended the meeting of Borough President Mark's citizens committee on open markets in the Municipal Building.

Many views were expressed concerning the necessity of immediate action to reduce the cost of foodstuffs, and all were unanimous that not only should city rents in the markets established by Borough President Mark be reduced but that everything possible should be done to encourage open public markets in the city.

U. S. MIDDLEMEN GREEDY

They Get 45 Cents of Consumers' Dollars; Only 20 Cents Abroad.

Commissioner John J. Dillon, head of the State Department of Foods and Markets, told the Wicks committee at its session yesterday that 45 cents out of every dollar paid by the consumer for food here goes to the middleman, while abroad the middleman is content to take only 20 cents out of a dollar.

He talked about eggs, milk, hay and apples, and said there is no good market for New York State apples in this city because apple speculators advance money to Western apple growers to send their products to this market. New York State apples took first prize at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, too.

Mr. Dillon believed the State should instruct its farmers as to the best way to get their products on the market. He insisted that when there is a surplus of products here, the price to the farmer is low. He said it was a "crying sin" that the price seldom gets lower to the consumer.

"Not only is there no attempt to increase the consumption," he added, "but there is a deliberate attempt made not to do it."

The Commissioner charged that the system of food distribution in this city is all wrong, and that an honest man must conform to the rules or go out of business.

"It's trouble," he said, "is that the food dealers make as little return as they can to the producer or charge the consumer all they can get."

Mr. Dillon said he tried last year to dispose of haled hay for New York State farmers by auction in this city. The railroads informed him there was an embargo on hay, he said, and later he learned that the hay was refused shipment because of a complaint made to the railroads by representatives of the Hay Association. He was asked to produce names of his informants and he promised to do so.

The hearing will continue this morning.

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ONLY STANDPATTER IS THE STRING BEAN

All Other Ingredients of the Thanksgiving Dinner Have Risen in Cost.

Only the standpatt attitude of the humble string bean prevents the sweeping statement that every ingredient of the Thanksgiving dinner has gone up in price since this time last year, when people were indignantly discussing the high cost of living and when there was a bumper crop of food price investigations.

The string bean has stood firm. A reporter who wandered around Washington Market yesterday could get no dealer to admit that string beans were sold for more than 20 cents a quart, and that was the price last year. Probably this oversight will be remedied shortly, however.

The turkey carried the banner yesterday in the matter of high cost. The best of turkeys were sold last year at Washington Market at 30 cents a pound, while this year the cost is 40 cents.

The subjoined table shows the comparative cost of commodities two days before Thanksgiving this year and last year in Washington Market. It must be remembered that last year there was a sharp jump throughout the city in the price of fruits and vegetables two days before Thanksgiving, while this year prices have gone up recently only slightly. Retail prices quoted are for the best quality.

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THOM SEES ROADS IN FEDERAL HANDS

Manager's Counsel Admits It's "Inevitable" if Credit Isn't Restored.

CAUSE OF TRAFFIC EVILS

Newland Commission Witness Says Lines Need 8 Per Cent. New Capital Yearly.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Decline of railway securities as an investment and the effect of this condition on the development of this country were the questions that again engaged the attention of the Newland commission to-day. Members of the commission apparently realize the seriousness of the situation.

Alfred P. Thom, who is explaining the railroads' side of the case, on the stand attributed to it the slowness with which freight is now moving and the congestion at yards and terminals.

He again insisted that to alleviate present conditions of traffic some way must be found by which the railroads of the country can raise in new money a sum equal to about 8 per cent. annually upon the present investment for the next twelve years.

Some of the members of the commission indicated that they did not see very well how this could be done without some form of Government guarantee of dividends or bonds or Government ownership.

Representative Sims, Tennessee, asked Mr. Thom if Government ownership of railroads is not a probability of the future if the present system is not adequately perfected.

U. S. Ownership "Inevitable."

Mr. Thom said he thought Government ownership "inevitable" unless a device for the restoration of railroad credit under private ownership were provided. He pointed out that under Government ownership State control of rates would necessarily cease altogether, while under the proposals for an amendment of existing laws and conditions partial State control would be maintained.

Mr. Sims supplemented this discussion of Government ownership by expressing a doubt whether the large sums of money needed for railroad development can be obtained from private sources free to invest money when the most attractive offer is made.

"The future of the country," said Mr. Sims, "should not be conditional upon the sweet will of men who are free to put their money where they wish. Some kind of Government guarantee seems necessary. It seems almost as if the Government must guarantee minimum dividends, or put its faith back of bond issues or in some way get behind the railroads."

Senator Robinson, Arkansas, tried to bring from Mr. Thom the admission that the decline of railway securities as an investment began with revelations of the "mistakes and mismanagement of the railroads."

Mr. Thom declared that these things may have had something to do with it, but insisted that the moving cause was the realization by investors that owners of the railroads had no voice either in the expenses or the revenues of their properties.

"It is my understanding that the distinct decline began in 1910 when the rate decision was a notice to the owners of the railroads that they had lost control of their property so far as charges and revenues were concerned," said Mr. Thom. "That year the decision added \$50,000,000 to the expenses of the railroads without a corresponding increase, or any increase, in fact, in revenues."

Mr. Thom added that the mistakes of mismanagement complained of by Senator Robinson had not affected 10 per cent. of the mileage of the railroads of the country, and that the majority of them had not influenced securities of the other nine-tenths.

Mistakes Affected Other Lines.

"But wouldn't even the 10 per cent. thus affected relate to and affect all of the roads?" inquired Mr. Robinson. "Wouldn't the very mistakes and mismanagement arouse a sentiment for greater regulation by the Government of all carriers?"

Mr. Thom had said previously that he believed there had been too much regulation, both State and Federal, and he admitted that there would have been less demand for regulation from the public probably if there had not been mismanagement.

"Do you regard the first interstate commerce act of 1887 as largely punitive and corrective?"

"Yes; it was passed for that purpose and in a spirit of resentment against the railroads and was administered in a way to secure the lowest possible rates and to surround the railroads with the greatest possible restrictions. Popular distrust has hampered the railroads."

"The time has come, we say, when you

sentiment should deal with the railroads as with any other business when you should be ready to concede that the men managing the railroads are honest and patriotic. You should retain the corrective features in your legislation, but add helpful features to increase the transportation facilities. Considering past mistakes, resenting them does no good now. It does not meet the public demand of the moment. We contend that the mistakes of mismanagement have most all been corrected, but even with the mistakes eliminated, incapacity remains that would prevent the railroads doing their full duty by the public."

Continued from First Page.

investment in the British and French Treasury bills.

On the other hand, it was shown by Banking Department officials as well as by bankers that if these notes were taken by manufacturers of munitions as they might be by way of extending credit to their best customers—the notes could then be endorsed by the manufacturers and rediscounted at the banks.

The only objection to a large consumption of them in this way was that munition manufacturers already have subscribed heavily to most of the foreign Government loans.

In return to this suggestion it was argued that with war profits high and new contracts coming there was no reason why munition manufacturers should not increase their holdings of these securities. It was also suggested that after acceptance of the notes by munition manufacturers there might be established an open discount market in which the accepted bills could find a ready sale.

AIMS AT BRITISH ISSUE.

Morgan Partner Valued Sought to Avert Objection.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The action of the Federal Reserve Board yesterday in

notes of the British Treasury issued in dollars to run 30, 60 or 90 days, as the purchaser may elect. These appeared to be no limit to the volume of such bills which might be put out here by the British Government other than the power of the country to absorb them.